Excise benefit to Tata Sumo vehicles

1812. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tata has been given benefit of excise duty on their product named, TATA Sumo vehicle;

(b) if so, what are the details of benefit for excise duty as compared to other automobiles/vehicles; and

(c) how many manufacturers are in the queue to from collaboration in automobile sector for passenger car with their names of collaborators and brand name of their product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) All the light commercial vehicles with GVW of more than 2700 kg with a seating capacity of 10 or more persons are eligible for concessional rate of excise duty of 10% subject to the condition that the same are fuel efficient. Tata Sumo has been found to be fuel efficient as per the norms prescribed by Government and is thus enjoying concessional rate of excise duty of 10% as is available to other similar vehicles.

(c) Government have already approved several Foreign Collaboration proposals in the Passenger Car Sector but, at present, no such proposal is pending for consideration of the Government.

बिहार में कृषि योग्य बनाई गई भूमि का क्षेत्रफल

1813. श्री नरेश यादव: क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) बिहार में बंजरभूमि विकास योजना के अन्तर्गत कितनी भूमि को कृषि योग्य बनाया गया है; और

(ख) क्या इस योजना से इच्छित परिणाम सामने आए हैं?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (बंजरभूमि विकास विभाग) (कर्नल राम सिंह): (क) बंजरभूमि, निम्नीकृत भूमि होती है जिसका सामान्यतः कम उपयोग होता है और जिसका उपयुक्त जल और भूमि प्रबंध की कमी अथवा प्राकृतिक कारणों की वजह से अपकर्ष हो रहा है। इसलिए, विकास के प्रथम चरण में ऐसी भूमि पर सामान्यतः कृषि कार्य करना संभव नहीं है। तथापि, बंजरभूमि विकास विभाग अपनी निम्नलिखित विभिन्न योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत वृक्षारोपण, चरागाह विकास, परती भूमि पर बागबानी, भूमि और नमी संरक्षण आदि जैसी विभिन्न किफायती लागत वाली और भूमि आधारित गतिविधियों की मार्फत गैर वन बंजरभूमि का स्थायी तौर पर संवर्धन कर रहा है:—

1. समेकित बंजरभूमि विकास परियोजना योजना
2. अनुदान सहायता योजना
3. प्रौद्योगिकी विकास, विस्तार और प्रशिक्षण योजना
4. बंजरभूमि विकास कार्य दल योजना
5. निवेश संवर्धन योजना।

"बंजरभूमि विकास योजना" नामक कोई विशिष्ट योजना नहीं है।

(ख) बंजरभूमि विकास विभाग की योजनाएं सामान्यतः वर्षा आधारित परिस्थितियों वाली निम्नीकृत भूमि पर कार्यान्वित की जाती है। इन योजनाओं को 3 से 5 वर्ष की अवधि में कार्यान्वित किया जाएगा। इन परियोजनाओं के पूरे परिणाम परियोजना के पूरा होने के बाद ही स्पष्ट होंगे। विभाग में एक ठोस निगरानी प्रणाली है जिससे पता चलता है कि इन परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन के प्रथम दो वर्षों में चारे की उपलब्धता बढ़ी है, भूमि के अपरदन में कमी आई है तथा जल सम्पुर्ति हुई है।

Funds for establishment of Growth Centres in Karnataka

1814. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka have asked for release of funds for the infrastructural development of Growth Centres at Dharwad, Raichur and Hassan;

(b) what is the amount allocated for this purpose and the amount actually released so far; and

(c) by when Government are going to release the balance amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Scheme each Growth Centre at Dharwad, Raichur and Hassan will be provided with Rs. 10 crores as Central Government's contribution. The amount of Central assistance released so far for the three Centres is as under—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Dharwad	420
Raichur	320
Hassan	300

(c) The Central Government will release the balance amount depending upon the progress of implementation by the Government of Karnataka.

Upgradation of Indian Navy

1815. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Indian Navy in need of upgradation" as reported in the Statesman of 25th July, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Navy has now become worst in the World;

(c) whether the navies of China and Pakistan are posing threat to the Indian Navy;

(d) whether Government propose to allocate special funds for the modernisation of Indian Navy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) All developments having a bearing on the Country's security are kept under constant observation by Government and appropriate counter-measures, including allocation of necessary funds are initiated from time to time, to maintain defence preparedness. The Indian Navy is also re-equipped and modernised in keeping with the emerging threat perception and with reference to the Perspective & Annual Plans drawn up for the purpose.

New Technology Service Packages to promote SSIs

1816. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced new technology service packages to promote small scale industry;

(b) whether tool rooms have been set up under the service packages;

(c) if so, the States where the tool room packages have been set up and the location thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to set up one tool room at Nawarangpur in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Government has been assisting the Small Industries in upgrading their technology through technically qualified field staff of the Small Industries Service Institutes and their Branch Institutes located in all the States. The four Regional Testing Centres and their Field Stations assist the Small Industries in upgrading the technology by testing the raw materials and also the products of the Small Scale Industries. Tool Rooms also have been